UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/24484
24 August 1992
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

NOTE VERBALE DATED 24 AUGUST 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MOROCCO TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco to the United Nations presents his compliments to the United Nations Secretary-General and has the honour to transmit to him herewith a letter dated 21 August 1992 addressed to him by the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, regarding the coming local and national elections.

The Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco would be grateful if the Secretary-General would kindly have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

Annex

Letter dated 21 August 1992 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Morocco addressed to the Secretary-General

As you know, the Kingdom of Morocco has for several years been engaged, with conviction and determination, in a major process of political and economic reform aimed at consolidating democratic achievements and improving the well-being of the Moroccan people.

As part of this process, legislative elections have already been held throughout the Moroccan territory, including the Saharan territory, first in 1977 and then in 1984.

When in 1990 the term of Parliament expired as provided by the Constitution, the United Nations was already involved in implementing the Settlement Plan for the organization of a referendum of self-determination in the so-called territory of Western Sahara.

In order to avoid any misunderstanding or concern, Morocco had at that time decided, through a constitutional amendment adopted by referendum, to extend the life of the current Parliament as an exception for two additional years, in the conviction that this period would suffice to carry out the Settlement Plan.

Subsequently, a detailed timetable was proposed by the United Nations Secretary-General and confirmed by the Security Council. According to this timetable, the referendum was to be held during the first few weeks of 1992, enabling Morocco subsequently to hold national elections in accordance with constitutional time-limits.

Unfortunately, for reasons which both the United Nations and Morocco regretted, the Plan could not be put into effect within the time initially envisaged and the two-year period expired without the achievement of the goal that had warranted it.

Today, the Kingdom of Morocco finds itself at a moment that will decide its future. In response to the new concerns of the Moroccan people and to the imperatives of the present day, Morocco is preparing to adopt a new Constitution by referendum and, as in the past, to hold local and national elections.

At issue is a national democratic requirement which the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco is compelled to fulfil.

This being the case, I wish to make it clear on behalf of the Government of His Majesty the King that the holding of the constitutional referendum and the national elections cannot in any way whatsoever be linked, either closely

or remotely, to the projected referendum under the United Nations Settlement Plan, because of the radically different nature and objectives of the two consultations.

At the same time, I would like to reaffirm to you Morocco's standing commitment to continued full cooperation with you and with your Special Representative, so that the MINURSO mission can be carried out under the best possible conditions, and all facets of the Settlement Plan can, with the support of the Security Council, be put into effect.

(Signed) Abdellatif FILALI
Minister of State for Foreign
Affairs and Cooperation